

## **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE UPDATE**

### **June 11, 2002**

Wisconsin has now confirmed CWD in 18 wild white-tailed deer in the CWD zone around Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin.

Saskatchewan has confirmed an additional positive from the 2002 hunting season in the Manito Sandhills region, just south of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. This brings the total number of wild deer testing positive to 3 in that province.

Five deer collected by the Game and Parks Commission near the most recent positive in Scotts Bluff County all tested negative for CWD. These deer were collected within a three mile radius of a white-tail that tested positive in April.

The first draft of a national plan to address CWD has been rejected by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and APHIS. Co-chairs of the National CWD Committee, Steve Williams of the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bobby Acord of APHIS stated that the plan did not address the needs of the states and directed their staffs to rewrite the plan with the primary aim being to assist the states in their efforts to manage CWD, not to federalize the actions.

Congressman Scott McInnis of Colorado has introduced legislation to provide funding to the states for the fight against CWD. This legislation would provide approximately 28 million dollars to the states through the Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA in grants and cost-share programs for research, surveillance, and public education.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation has joined several other nonprofit organizations in contributing to the fight against CWD. They will participate as a sponsor of the CWD symposium in August and will provide accurate information to their constituents reference CWD.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy has been confirmed in one cow in Israel. This makes the second occurrence of BSE outside Europe. Japan is the other country with confirmed BSE outside of Europe.

Michigan has banned deer feeding in the Upper Peninsula counties that border Wisconsin to prevent the concentration of deer in that area. They are hoping to prevent the movement of CWD from Wisconsin into Michigan.

Colorado Division of Wildlife has announced that they will test approximately 50,000 deer and elk this fall in an attempt to identify any new CWD hot spots.

Colorado Division of Wildlife has confirmed CWD in suburban Denver and in Jefferson County, south of Denver. This indicates that CWD is moving south from the historic endemic area.

North Dakota will increase surveillance and testing, start a public awareness campaign and cooperate with neighboring states to monitor CWD in the upper Midwest.. The move is

necessary after recent cases in South Dakota and Wisconsin according to Governor John Hoeven.

A meeting of the National CWD Committee will be held in Washington, D. C. on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. States will be represented at this meeting. The purpose of this meeting is approval of the final plan for the federal government to provide assistance to states in the CWD management efforts.

A presentation before the Congressional Sportsman Caucus reference CWD has been scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D. C. After this presentation, CWD experts will be meeting with congressional staff to develop additional plans for the involvement of the federal government. Additionally, they will meet with representatives of several conservation organizations in Washington to solicit their involvement in the effort.